

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-04 SAM-01 /114 W

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R 241720Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1577

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

USMISSION NATO

USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, VN

SUBJECT: LE DUAN DELEGATION VISIT TO GDR

SUMMARY: LE DUAN, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE VIETNAMESE WORKERS
PARTY, RECEIVED A HEAVY-HANDEDLY FLATTERING AND OSTENTATIOUS
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RECEPTION FROM THE GDR LEADERSHIP DURING HIS FIVE-DAY

VISIT, OCTOBER 15-19. END SUMMARY

1. THE PROGRAM BEGAN WITH A TRIUMPHAL MOTORCADE THROUGH THE HEART OF EAST BERLIN, WREATH-LAYINGS AT THE SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN MEMORIALS AND DINNER AT THE UNTER DE LINDEN PALACE OFFERED BY SED FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER. THE VIETNAMESE PARTY ALSO VISITED HALLE AND AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT BEFORE RETURNING TO BERLIN FOR A WIDELY-PUBLICIZED SIGHING OF A "JOINT DECLARATION" BY HONECKER AND LE DUAN, WHICH CONTAINED REFERENCES TO COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL PLANS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES DURING THE 1976-80 PERIOD, AND THE OFFER OF UNSPECIFIED LONG-TERM CREDITS BY THE GDR TO VIETNAM. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, VIETNAM MINISTER OF EDUCATION NGUYEN VAN HUYEN DIED IN EAST GERMANY DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT.

2. THERE WAS A STUDIED ATTEMPT, EXEMPLIFIED BY AN EDITORIAL IN NEUS DEUTSCHLAND ON OCTOBER 21, TO DESCRIBE THE TWO COUNTRIES AS FORMER OUTCASTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE WHO HAD NOW GAINED ACCEPTANCE AFTER YEARS OF STRUGGLE. THE SLOGAN OF BROTHERLY SOLIDARITY, AND REFERENCES TO THE AID, MORAL AND OTHERWISE, GIVEN TO VIETNAM BY THE EUROPEAN SOCIALIST CAMP IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST "USA AGGRESSION" APPEARED FREQUENTLY, ALONG WITH REPEATED EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS FOR GDR HELP FROM THE VISITORS.

3. MENTION OF THE US OCCURRED MOST PROMINENTLY IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, WHICH CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA AND CLOSING DOWN US FACILITIES THERE, AND DEMANDED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA BE DISSOLVED AND "ALL FOREIGN FORCES" BE WITHDRAWN. THE GDR SUPPORTED MEMBERSHIP OF VIETNAM IN THE UN WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT.

4. COMMENT: THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, WHOSE DELEGATION INCLUDED SEVERAL ECONOMIC HEAVYWEIGHTS (DEPUTY CHIEF OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE ECONOMIC AND PLANNING SECTION, DEPUTY STATE PLANNING CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER) PROBABLY DID THEIR BEST TO SHAKE DOWN THEIR AFFLUENT EAST GERMAN BROTHERS WHO (WITHH MOSCOW) ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKELY CANDIDATES TO COMPETE WITH CHINESE AID TO HANOI. THE JOINT DECLARATION REFERS TO "EXTENSIVE" DELIVERIES OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO NORTH VIETNAM ON CREDIT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, AND FORESTRY. CONTINUED GDR PARTICIPATION IN THE DESIGN AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY OF VINH, AND TRAINING BY THE GDR OF VIETNAMESE CADRE ARE ALSO CITED IN THE CONTEXT OF GDR AID. ECONOMIC TALKS PRODUCED AN AGREEMENT ON PROVISION BY THE GDR OF

AN UNSPECIFIED QUANTITY OF LONG-TERM CREDITS FOR PURCHASE OF INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT; A PROTOCOL ON 1976-80 PLAN COORDINATION: AN AGREEMENT, PROBABLY A COMMODITY LIST, COVERING 1976 TRADE; AND GENERAL COMMITMENTS LIST, COVERING 1976 TRADE; AND GENERAL COMMITMENTS TO INCREASE TRADE (I.E. INCREASE DELIVERIES TO VIETNAM), AND TO NEGOTIATE A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT FOR 1976-80.

5. OFFICIAL INFORMATION FAILS TO PROVIDE HARD INFORMATION ON ANY NEW COMMITMENTS OF GDR ECONOMIC AID TO NORTH VIETNAM, WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE VIENTAMESE CAME ALL THE WAY TO BERLIN WITHOUT GDR ASSURANCES THAT THE VISIT WOULD PRODUCE TANGIBLE BENEFITS FOR THEIR ECONOMY.

6. AN OFFICIAL OF THE PRC EMBASSY HERE REMARKED TO THE ITALIAN DCM THAT THERE HAD BEEN TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON "THE FAKE POLICY OF DETENTE" DURING THE LE DUAN VISIT, AND HE EXPRESSED IRRITATION THAT THE PRC HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN CREDIT IN THE JOINT DECLARATION FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS OF MATERIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO VIETNAM IN THE RECENT STRUGGLE.COOPER

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